



Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, October 27, 2014
5-6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Welcome and call to order at 5:15 PM

Board Members In Attendance: Kathy Cloutier, Chad Galts, Martin Huntley, Rick Richards, Nicky Nichtern, and Anna Cano Morales

Absent: Ellen Foley, Robin Warde, and Nancy Levitt-Vieira

Staff in Attendance: Julie Nora, Liz Machado

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board contact list was distributed and members were asked to review (and, if necessary, revise) their entries.

ACTION ITEMS

- The minutes of the previous meeting of September 22, 2014 were amended to correct language referring to payment to Dorcas International Institute and unanimously approved.
- Julie's participation as a writer for the Heinemann *Not This Series*, and her acceptance of royalties, was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Development Committee: Committee met 10/16/14 and
 - Discussed how to involve a diverse support group.
 - Discussed support from foundations – RI Foundation might provide a stipend to support a part-time in-house support and development staff position.
 - A letter to parents requesting \$10 donations raised \$1428.
 - A targeted request for funds to upgrade cameras for the 3rd. grade photo project raised \$2155.
 - A \$4K grant proposal has been submitted to the RI Foundation for a dedicated computer and printer to digitize photos for the 3rd. grade photo project.

- Academic Committee: Met 9/29/14.
 - Reviewed committee's due diligence plan for submission to Governance Committee.
 - Discussed the school's Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMOA) report from RIDE, noting that for the first time the school missed one of the three targets for ELLs, the grades 3-5 Math objective. Staff are exploring whether this reflects a teaching issue or a cohort issue.
 - NECAP Science results remain embargoed by RIDE because of issues with the eighth grade test, but ICS saw a 13% increase in Proficient and Proficient with Distinction.
- Finance Committee:
 - Liz distributed the annual auditor's report, along with the auditor's Federal expenditures report.
 - No audit exceptions, no red flags.
- Governance Committee: Met 10/24/14.
 - Committee still needs due diligence plans from some committees.
 - The committee would like to add one more member, preferably someone with legal expertise.
 - The committee is looking to put together a manual for orientation of Board members.
- Health & Wellness Committee: Did not meet in the last month.
 - Chad will represent the Board on this committee in place of Nicky.
 - School members took part in a Lincoln Woods walk the previous weekend
 - A 5K Thanksgiving run/walk is planned.
 - A Build a Better Breakfast initiative is under way.
- Expansion Committee: Met 10/10/14.
 - Failure to reach agreement with Civic Builders on scope of continuing work requires us to "go back to the drawing board."
 - Eric and Julie have met with Providence School District personnel to indicate that we are still interested in the Windmill site. We will look again at this site, to explore whether funding from LISC would be more feasible than that proposed by Civic.
 - Owner of the former Katherine Gibbs site is conducting a new environmental review to determine suitability for a school. We are considering whether to go to DEM for proxy review consideration.
 - We continue to look for other sites, but the environmental issues are a big barrier.
 - Blackstone Academy has been approved for expansion from 150 to 300 students. They plan to rent space short-term at the Boys and Girls club, but are interested in expanding into the Pleasant St. building. We have

- legal protection of a three year lease from the owner, but the owner may be interested in selling the building.
- We have made formal application to RIDE for an increase in class size for the current K-5 classes. While we considered applying for the full expansion that we are planning, it was decided that current unavailability of a site made that premature.
- Evaluation Committee: No committee meeting this past month. However, Chad and Ellen did meet with Julie for the planned beginning of the year conference. The review process is on track.

DISCUSSION

- Each committee needs to review the Board's Strategic Plan at its next meeting, in preparation for extended discussion of the Strategic Plan at the Board's next meeting on November 24.
- There was brief discussion of the apparent requirement that the Board and all its committees file minutes and meeting documents with the Secretary of State, in addition to agendas. It was noted that this does put some burden on school staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Election Day – school closed for students but staff will participate in an IB professional development session.
- Julie will share a full schedule of the planned Tertulias for the year, noting that the Dec. 10, 5-7, Tertulia will focus on IB.

Next Board meeting: November 24, 2014, 5:00-8:00 pm.

By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Huntley